

RAB Minutes

NAS North Island

Restoration Advisory Board

Introduction

The thirty-sixth Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island was held on Wednesday, May 21, 1997 at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Arno Bernardo, Navy Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed RAB and community members.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 17, 1997 RAB MEETING

Approval of the minutes was deferred until the June meeting. Several RAB members requested additional time to read them, since the minutes arrived late.

Mr. Bernardo then welcomed Captain Steuer to present awards to the RAB members.

PRESENTATION BY CAPTAIN STEUER.

Captain Steuer read out loud a letter he had written to Ms. Marron. That letter stated that the Captain proudly accepted the 1996 Secretary of Defense Environmental Cleanup Award for the Installation Restoration Program at Naval Air Station North Island. The contributions of the RAB and its individual members were key elements of the success of the IR program.

Captain Steuer then described the ceremonies. He received a plaque from the CNO, and then went to a second ceremony with the Secretary of the Navy and received a larger plaque. The third ceremony was the Secretary of Defense awards, and Mr. Cohen, the Secretary of Defense, actually made the presentations. At this ceremony, a large trophy was given to each of the award winning the Installation Commanders. The Navy only got 2 of the 7 Department of Defense awards - the other Navy award went to Indian Head for HAZMAT.

Certificates of appreciation were handed out to the RAB members, with a copy of the citation from the Secretary of Defense attached to each.

In response to a question from Mr. Bacon on the quadrennial review, Captain Steuer said he only knew what he had read in the papers. Captain Steuer said his energies are now involved in the budget and he described the budget process for Fiscal Year 1998 that is now underway. The region has to absorb a 10% cut across the board, which works out to approximately \$22.6 million for 1998 and there will be another \$15 million in FY 1999. The Captain reported that, working with Admiral Stroman, they had found \$20 million thus far and still have almost \$2 million to go. This is Captain Steuer's immediate concern, the QDR can wait until tomorrow.

Ms. Hunter inquired whether, since Naval Amphibious Base (NAB), Coronado is being taken over by NAS North Island, NAB will be covered by this RAB. Captain Steuer replied "Why not?", but said this was strictly opinion. He said he would like to use the question as a segue into why NAB and NASNI were

consolidated.

There will be three sites in the San Diego region: Coronado complex (from North Island to Green Field), Main side (working name) complex (Naval Station, Naval Hospital), and the Point Loma complex (the sub base, which is being taken over by CINCPAC and SPAWAR). Consolidating NAB and NASNI was the first step in forming the entire Coronado complex. The Navy is looking at consolidating a lot of functions and eliminating duplication. So far, 70 civilian jobs and 80 military personnel have been eliminated.

Captain Steuer thanked the RAB for the opportunity to speak. He stated that the IR program at NAS North Island is a true success story - the RAB is a viable group, there is good communication, and we are making progress.

RAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT - Laura Hunter

The committee has met twice. The members are Laura Hunter, Larry McCauley, Lois Ewen, Dottie Marron and Sandor Kaupp. Captain Mello came to offer guidance on what was acceptable for Navy review and what was unnecessary - Ms. Hunter thanked him. The committee put together the SIQ (statement of qualifications) that was sent to the RAB members.

It was decided to put out four separate requests for proposal (RFPs) for each of the four tasks. The committee is seeking approval of the RFPs and wanted input from RAB members on whether there were any items not included or whether there are different priorities.

The introduction outlines the problem. One task would be listed per page, and there would be 4 pages. What the committee is asking for from the consultants (the deliverables) is for the consultants to prepare a written report and respond to written questions by the RAB. They would be expected to provide a defense of their position and an evaluation of their level of confidence in their recommendation. The committee is seeking someone with demonstrated experience, and experience with community groups. They would be expected to submit examples of prior work. By "no conflict ", the committee means that less than 3% of their environmental work be from the Navy or DOD. All presentations except the final presentation can be done by teleconferencing. The final presentation to the RAB would have to be in person.

The RAB TAC committee will review the proposals, interview consultants and make recommendation - the entire RAB will vote on the choice. The final report will be given to the entire RAB. Mr. Van Rooy asked whether asking for 3% is realistic. Ms. Hunter replied that the feeling was it would be a firm outside of San Diego or an individual in San Diego. Mr. Bacon suggested that there be a stipulation in the contract for ongoing telephone contact to obtain progress reports.

Mr. Bacon also asked how will the RFP be distributed. The Navy has agreed to send it out to 100 addresses that the TAC specifies. They will send the RFP out on June 15th and expect proposals to be returned by July 15th. Mr. Dittbenner suggested the Chronicle of Higher Education as another source of potential RFP distribution. Mr. Chilton suggested the three universities in San Diego. A motion was made to approve the RFP/SIQ incorporating the suggestions made at this meeting and was passed without objection.

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Bernardo asked for questions. Ms. Kaupp inquired about the process to incorporate NAB into this RAB. Mr. Bernardo replied that after October 1st we would need to look at affected community areas and notify those people for potential addition as RAB members. It is his understanding that there are few issues there. There are six sites, and all but one will probably require no further action. Mr. Van Rooy asked about the NAB environmental division. Mr. Bernardo informed the RAB that 2/3 of the environmental support has been absorbed, with the rest to follow October 1. Mr. Bacon asked about their RAB - there had been no interest in forming a separate RAB. Ms. Ewen commented that not having to go through the learning curve

would save time, even if additional responsibilities might make the RAB meetings longer or more frequent.

Ms. Hunter brought up the complaints she had brought to the RAB over groundwater pumping. Water is being pulled off the base. It would appear that the pumping may be drawing water from Site 4 or Site 5 - are there then contaminants in the water? The City of Coronado has a permit for dewatering discharge - are tests being done for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) or volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Ms. Ewen added that water collects in the swale. Mr. Collins volunteered to look into it and that it would be on next month's agenda.

Ms. Hunter also brought up a joint study done by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State of California on sediment quality in San Diego Bay, at a cost of \$800,000. She showed some photographs of abalone exposed to water. 80% were healthy, but 20% were abnormal. If there was a toxic hit, there had to be a second hit 1 year later in order for it to be counted. A site only made the list if over half of the organisms exposed were killed. 6 major areas made the list.

Mr. Magee asked whether anyone was planning to attend the EPA Risk Assessment course. Few RAB members had heard about it. The fact that it takes place during the week makes it difficult to attend.

Ms. Hunter announced a hearing on the Navy's mixed use permit on Wednesday, May 28 from 7-9:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

Mr. Collins said that there is a Navy organization that does risk assessment presentations and that the Navy would like to have them present at our next RAB meeting. It's some of the same material that the EPA is presenting, squeezed into an hour or two. Ms. Mingay said that the group was excellent and that she was impressed by their presentation. They are presenting to the Naval Station RAB and will be willing to present to this RAB at the same time. Mr. Mach suggested starting the RAB meeting an hour earlier.

The next RAB meeting will be Thursday, June 26th at 5:30 p.m. The July meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 30th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.